(c) to (e). National Parks Services of the U.S.A prepared a conservation and Tourism enhancement plan in June, 1991 which incorporates an integrated development for these sites including land use plan, management and maintenance of heritage sites, interpretation and visitor facilities.

The recommendations are incorporated in the OECF Project.

Tourists Arrivals

314. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the latest figure, India still accounts for 0.4% of world tourists arrivals and 0.7% of tourism receipts;

(b) if so, the reasons for this dismal figures despite so much stress has been given on boosting tourism;

(c) the India's comparison of figures with the figures of other countries of the region in this regard; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to improve India's position in World tourism?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d). India being a developing nation infrastructural facilities are limited. The main reasons for the low share of India in the world tourist traffic are accessibility and infrastructural facilities. The measures being taken by Government to improve India's share in world tourism include continuous improvement of infrastructural facilities, development of tourist attractions, focussed publicity and marketing abroad, etc.

The percentage share of India and other countries of South Asia region in the global tourist traffic and Tourism receipts during 1995 were as follows :

Country	Tourist Arrivals (thousand)	% Share to World Arrivals	Tourist Receipts (US $ millions)	% Share to World Receipts
India	2124	0.37	2754	0.74
Bangladesh	150	0.03	21	0.01
Pakistan	528	0.09	125	0.03
Iran	365	0.06	155	0.04
Maldives	324	0.06	205	0.06
Nepal	346	0.06	170	0.05
Sri Lanka	451	0.08	248	0.07
Others*	98	0.02	29	0.01

*Others : Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar

Survey regarding Potential of Tourism in Kutch Region

315. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have surveyed the potential of tourism in the Kutch region of Gujarat, and

(b) if so, the programme chalked out by the Union Government for the development of Kutch region for pilgrim and adventure of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). In the Tourism Policy of Gujarat, the State Government has identified Kutch as a potential area for development of Tourism.

The State Government has prepared a Master Plan for the infrastructural development of Kutch distt. for the promotion of tourism. The Department of Tourism provided funds for Kutch Festival during 1995-96.

[Translation]

Surat-Bhusaval Railway Line

316. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to double and electrify the Surat-Bhusaval railway line,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Doubling of single line section is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated. Over long sections, such doubling is taken up in phases to tackle the critical section first. In this case survey for doubling of Nardana-Amalner section (28 kms) has been taken up. The remaining section would be considered in due course as per requirements of traffic. The portion from Surat to Udhana and Bhusawal to Jalgaon is already electrified.

Udhana-Jalgaon is an unelectrified portion of Surat-Bhusawal section. The electrification work of Udhana-Jalgaon section is proposed to be included in the Budget for the year 1997-98.

[English]

Oriya Programme on Doordarshan/AIR in Orissa

317 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras in Orissa which have the facilities of producing original programmes in Oriya language, location-wise;

(b) the details of such projects under implementation in the State;

(c) whether Oriya language is given adequate time to telecast on the National network and DD channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Information is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) National Network of Doordarshan does not telecast any programmes in any regional language. However, regional films which have won National award or panorma entry and also dance and music programmes of eminent artists in regional languages are telecast in the National Network.

The programmes telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar are available all over the country through cable connection. Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar telecast regional programmes from 4.30 P.M. to 8.30 P.M. daily which can be seen terrestrially all over Orissa.

STATEMENT

(a) The following eleven AIR Stations in Orissa have the facilities of producing original programmes in Oriya language :

1. Cuttack
2. Jeypore
3. Sambalpur
4. Keonjhar
5. Baripada
6. Berhampur
7. Bolangir
8. Bhawanipatna
9. Rourkela
10. Puri
11. Joranda

Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar and Sambalpur have studio facilities to produce programmes in Oriya language.

(b) The project under implementation :

All India Radio

The existing transmitters at Sambalpur and Jeypore are being upgraded. Local Radio Stations are being set-up at Soro (Balasore) and Rairangpur.

Doordarshan

A studio centre is being set up at Bhawanipatna.

Orders for MG Coaches Stopped

318 SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Board has stopped placing orders for MG Coaches and that MG coaches are generally overaged and unsafe for passenger operation;

(b) if so, the details of overaged coaches and the state of such overaged coaches; and

(c) the number of new MG coaches built during the last three years and outstanding orders as at present and the number of overaged MG coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) In view of requirement of MG Coaches coming down with the planned gauge conversion, Railway Board decided to stop manufacture of new MG Coaches. It is not correct that MG coaches are generally overaged and unsafe for passenger operation.

(b) The average economic life of a MG Coach is 25 years. As on 31.3.96, about 16% of the MG coaches had completed 25 years of service. The condition of these coaches is satisfactory and they are safe and fit for operation in all respects.

(c) The number of new MG coaches built during the last three years is under :

Year	No. of coaches mfd.
1993-94	70
1994-95	Nil
1995-96	Nil

There is no outstanding order for MG Coach manufacture at present. As on 31.3.96, 890 coaches had completed a service of 25 years out of a total holding of 5565 MG passenger carrying coaches.